

PRESS RELEASE

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OCTOBER 5, 1962.

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

The International Joint Commission met in Ottawa from October 2nd to 4th for its regular semi-annual meeting to receive reports from its technical boards and to consider future action on the various problems the Commission has under investigation and surveillance. (The U.S. Chairman of the IJC is the Honourable Teno Roncalio; the Canadian Chairman, A. D. P. Heeney, Q.C.)

Pembina River Basin

The Commission approved a progress report from its International Pembina River Engineering Board which is studying possible developments of mutual advantage to Manitoba and North Dakota for flood control, irrigation, domestic water supply, water conservation and sanitation. These engineering studies were begun during the past summer and are expected to continue over a period of some two years before final technical conclusions can be presented to the Commission.

Champlain-Richelieu Waterway

In July of this year the Commission was asked by the Canadian and United States Governments to study and report upon the feasibility and economic advantages of improving or developing a waterway from the St. Lawrence River in Canada through Lake Champlain to the Hudson River at Albany, N.Y.

At the meetings just concluded, the Commission officially established an International Champlain Waterway Board to conduct the necessary technical investigations for this purpose. The board was directed to examine expeditiously the economic consequences of such a waterway in the area and its effects in both countries. The board will begin its studies immediately.

The Commission named G. A. Scott, Assistant Deputy Minister of Transport, as chairman of the Canadian Section, and Henry C. C. Weinkauff, Special Assistant to the Director of Civil Works, Army Corps of Engineers, as Chairman of the U.S. Section of the board. Other members of the board will include, from the Department of Public Works - G. R. Millar, Chief Engineer, Harbours and Rivers Engineering Branch (Montreal District Engineer to be his alternate), from the Water Resources Branch, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources - R. H. Clark; on the U.S. Section officials to be designated from appropriate agencies of the U.S. Government.

The Commission itself expects to visit the area as soon as conditions warrant in 1963 and, subsequently, hearings will be conducted to provide opportunity for interested parties to express their views. Announcement of the dates and places for hearings will be made public well in advance.

Rainy River and Lake of the Woods; Water Pollution

The Commission was informed that its technical advisory board had completed its investigation of water pollution in this area and that the board's final report to the Commission was now being prepared. When the report is received the Commission will arrange for public hearings in the area.

Other Matters

During the course of the meetings the Commission also received progress reports on the levels of Rainy and Namakan Lakes, the construction of additional remedial works at Niagara Falls, the regulation of flows in the St. Lawrence River, the control of pollution in connecting channels of the Great Lakes and in the St. Croix River; also concerning control of air pollution in the Detroit-Windsor area.